

Sober living homes

Prescott's count is down 77%; Prescott Valley is up about 33%



Les Stukenberg/Courier

Courtesy

Prescott has seen its number of sober living homes decline in the past year from about 200 to a current total of 35 licensed by the city and 10 licensed through the state. Some of the reasons center on the ordinance the city adopted, which includes required training for managers. At right, former Mayor Harry Oberg in 2016 works on the training curriculum with stakeholders.

Prescott wondering if legislature will undo local rules; PV welcomes state help

By **CINDY BARKS**
The Daily Courier

Since new regulations on sober living homes took effect in Prescott in early 2017, the number of the homes has dropped by about 77 percent.

Although other factors were involved as well, such as stricter enforcement of claim rules by insurance companies, the city has credited its new ordinance with helping to get control of the burgeoning problem.

Now, the fate of the local ordinance is uncertain as the

Arizona Legislature considers a bill that would require registration and regulation of the homes on a statewide basis.

City officials say the bill is unclear on whether it would preempt Prescott's regulations.

CITY ACTION

Based on 2016 legislation that allowed for it, the Prescott City Council approved an ordinance, effective January 2017, that called for minimum standards on matters such as training for house managers, exit

policies for residents who are asked to leave the facilities, and criminal background checks on employees.

City records show that the number of sober living homes has dropped from a high of about 200, to the current total of 35 city-licensed homes, plus 10 more that opted to be licensed through the state.

Meanwhile, the number of sober living homes in neighboring Prescott Valley, which

See **SOBERING**, page 5A

State lawmakers look to extend sober living regulations statewide

By **HOWARD FISCHER**
For the Courier

PHOENIX — Arizona lawmakers appear finally ready to regulate sober living homes statewide. In 2020.

Without dissent the House Health Committee agreed Thursday to have the Department of Health Services license the facilities that have popped up in the past few years around the state. HB 2529 now goes to the full House.

The move comes two years after lawmakers, unwilling at the time to impose state oversight,

See **STATEWIDE**, page 5A

McCain target of recall drive



AP file photo

A Libertarian says Republican Sen. John McCain has been absent for cancer treatment too long; must gather 600,000 signatures in 120 days.

— Page 3A

Two suspects in custody in Ash Fork attempted murder case

Yavapai County Sheriff's deputies have booked two suspects into the Yavapai County jail, one of whom is charged with attempted homicide among other charges, according to YCSO Spokesperson Dwight D'Evelyn.

Deputies were dispatched to a report of several people fighting at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, on Fourth Street in Ash Fork, and were told one person had been hit in the head with a baseball bat, D'Evelyn said. Another caller reported hearing a gunshot that was later determined to be the sound of the baseball bat as it struck the victim's head.

Two suspects – Stephen Garcia, 31, and Darlene Clapperton, 24 – were eventually identified and initial information indicated Garcia got into a verbal argument with a



Garcia



Clapperton

woman outside Oasis Bar on Park Avenue and threatened to assault her. The victim called out for help and her boyfriend and his friend approached to intervene, the YCSO reported Saturday.

Garcia went home and returned with the baseball bat and his girlfriend, Clapperton. He allegedly hit the woman's boyfriend in the head and knocked him unconscious, D'Evelyn said. Another man was bitten in the face by Garcia when he attempted to take the bat away.

The victim was transported to Flagstaff Medical Center in critical condition and remained in a medically induced coma Saturday morning, Feb. 17, following extensive surgery.

Garcia was found hiding in a convenience store bathroom and Clapperton was arrested at her house on Fourth Street. Deputies had to restrain Garcia's legs while being arrested, D'Evelyn said, adding that Garcia spit on deputies and kicked one trying to control his legs.

Garcia and Clapperton were booked into the Yavapai County jail with no bond set. Garcia's charges include attempted homicide, aggravated assault causing serious and substantial disfigurement or fracture of any body part, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated assault, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, and assault – two victims, and criminal damage.

Clapperton's charges include assault and aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer.

The cause of the original confrontation has not yet been disclosed.

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Weather, Page 2A

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